Church Life

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The First Baptist Church of Chicago

Seventy Years of History: 1833-1903

Edward Goodman

CHAPTER II, 1835-1848

After the death of Rev. Allen B. Freeman the First Baptist Church was supplied for a time by Rev. J. E. Ambrose. On July 26th, 1835, as the result of correspondence by Dr. J. T. Temple, Rev. Isaac Taylor Hinton became the second pastor of the church.

Mr. Hinton came to Chicago from Richmond, Va. He had recently come from England and was a brother of the eminent London Baptist preacher, Rev. John Howard Hinton. Mr. Hinton with his wife and six children, on arriving in Chicago, was hospitably entertained in Dr. Temple's family. Hon. John Wentworth who came to Chicago in 1836 said of him: "The Baptist denomination has few more able and ardent advocates than Mr. Hinton and I deem him preeminently qualified for the task he has undertaken."

Rev. Isaac Taylor Hinton

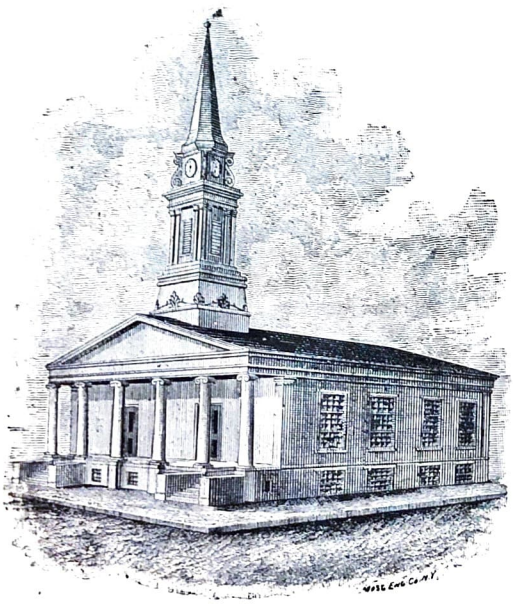
In connection with his work as pastor Mr. Hinton opened a boarding school.. He was an excellent classical scholar and a fine teacher, having been educated in Oxford, England. He preached a series of sermons on the prophecies which were of remarkable interest. He was Chicago's first author through the writing of a book on "A History of Baptism both from Inspired and Uninspired Writings." The book was published in 1840 by the American Baptist Publication Society in Philadelphia.

On September 15th, 1835, the first Baptist Association, with Chicago as the center, was organized and called "The Northern Baptist Association of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin Territory." The organization took place at Du Page, Ill. Four churches were represented: O'Plain, Chicago, Du Page and Plainfield. Rev. Isaac T. Hinton, Dr. John T. Temple. Samuel Lathrop and Benjamin H. Cliff were delegates from the First Church of Chicago. The O'Plain Church, constituted Oct. 5, 1833, reported thirty-four members; First Church of Chicago, Oct. 19, 1833, forty members; Du Page Church, August 26, 1834, thirty-four members; Plainfield Church, Oct. 16, 1834, twelve members. The total membership of the four churches was 120 members.

Mr. Hinton was a positive, earnest, impetuous, scholarly man, effective both in the pulpit and on the platform. He preached in the little churches about Chicago, established a church in Vermilionville, was delegate to the first Baptist convention held in Springfield in 1836, and was leader in the associational meeetings, called upon to preach the opening sermons, to write circular letters to the churches, and placed at the head of the executive board.

During Mr. Hinton's pastorate the Baptists in Chicago increased to about one hundred. A larger house of worship became necessary. A lot 80 feet front on Washington street and 180 feet on La Salle street (the site of the present Chamber of Commerce building) was donated to the church by the Canal Commissioners in 1836, similar sites near by having been given to the Methodists and Presbyterians.

In 1836 Mr. Hinton went east to solicit aid for the erection of the new house of worship and secured $846. The foundation of the new building was laid on the front part of the lot, but on account of



The Second Meeting House, erected in 1844.

the financial revulsions of 1836 and 1837 they were unable to proceed with the building, and so occupied the rude structure on the rear of the lot until 1844.

Mr. Wentworth was a great admirer of Mr. Hinton. He relates: "Our well known Silas B. Cobb and myself both then (in 1836-7) single men, hired one of the of the best pews in Mr. Hinton's church. It cost us twelve dollars and a half each in quarterly payments. I never had such good preaching for so little money."

In 1838 Dr. Levi D. Boone who came to Chicago in 1836 was elected superintendent of the Sunday School and held this position for fifteen years.

Among the many persons baptized by Mr. Hinton was Mrs. Thomas Hoyne the daughter of Dr. John T. Temple. Mrs. Hoyne wrote: "I was baptized in the month of February. The day was cold. The ice in Lake Michigan was cut far enough for the candidates to walk out into the water and we were immersed. When we reached the shore our clothing was frozen so hard, we could not bend it. We were wrapped in blankets and driven home. None of the candidates of whom there were five, took cold or felt any bad effects from exposure. We all felt that we had followed our dear Saviour down into the water and he could care for us."

After a successful pastorate in which 210 members were added to the church, 110 of these being by baptism, Mr. Hinton in 1841 resigned and removed to St. Louis. He was succeeded after an interval of several months by Rev. C. B. Smith, who became the third pastor of the church in September, 1842. Shortly after Mr. Smith became pastor, the **North Western Baptist**, the first Chicago Baptist paper, was started and was published semi-monthly for two years, with Rev. C. B. Smith as editor. The first number was dated Sept. 20, 1842, in which it is said, "Subscriptions may be paid at the office of Dr. L. D. Boone or the store of Eli B. Hulbert, South Water street." Mr. Hulbert was a deacon of the First Church, and his son is the present dean of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, Dr. Eri B. Hulbert.

After a pastorate of nearly one year, during which time 114 persons were baptized, and thirty-four were received by letter, Mr. Smith became the pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Chicago, which on August 14, 1843, was organized by members from the First Church. Eighty-nine members, according to the church letter to the association in June 1844, were dismissed for this purpose. Within eight weeks from its commencement a house of worship was completed and dedicated. It was located on La Salle street opposite the Court House Square. This house of worship was burned during

Rev Lewis Raymond's pastorate, June 26, 1851, and a new edifice was erected on the west side on Des Plaines street, between Madison and Washington streets, where the church continued to worship until 1864. At that time in connection with valued members from the First Church, it became the Second Baptist Church of Chicago, with Rev. E. J. Goodspeed as pastor.

On Feb. 8, 1843 Samuel Hoard united with the First Church and for many years was celebrated as the enthusiastic teacher of the Infant Class in the Sunday School.

Rev. E. H. Hamlin became the fourth pastor in August, 1843, and in January, 1844 it was resolved to build a new house of worship. After many sacrifices and much labor a brick edifice, fifty five feet fronting on Washington street and eighty feet on La Salle street was erected, at a cost of about $7,000. This house which seated 600 persons was occupied until it was burned in 1852.

Mr. Hamlin resigned in July 1845 and was succeeded by Rev. Miles Sanford in the following October. He remained about two years, when he resigned to take charge of a church in Massachusetts.

Rev. Luther Stone came to Chicago in January 1847 and acted as pastor of the First Church from July 1847 to September 1848, a period of about fourteen months. Mr. Stone at the same time was the editor of the **Watchman of the Prairies**, the first weekly Baptist paper published in Chicago. Mr. Stone brought out the first number of his paper August 31, 1847, which he continued to publish at great personal sacrifice for five and half years, until Feb. 22, 1853. On August 31, 1853 the paper was succeeded by **The Christian Times** which is now **The Standard.**

Douglass Improvement Association

The Association is now incorporated and is in full working order, with the following officers and directors:

President, Herbert C. Metcalf
Vice-president, W. J. Manning
Vice-president, George Fabyan
Secretary, John M. Graves.
Treasurer, Wm. M. Baker

Directors

Julius Schnering	John P. Wolf
W. S. Forrest	Isaac F. Rubel
H. L. Peterson	Mrs. A. Baldwin
Robert Ellis	Mrs. T. L. Gilmer
Joseph Rosenthal	Mrs. W. W. Clay
B. W. Eisendrath	Mrs. H. C. Metcalf
Dr. M. P. Hatfield	Mrs. T. R. Lynas
Clifford Williams	Miss Mae Coffeen
George H. Bowen	Mrs. J. M. Graves
Louis N. Weil	Mrs. H. M. Starkey
Dr. H. M. Starkey	Mrs. G. F. Shears

Mrs. C. Williams

The directors at their first meeting decided to raise a special fund of $1,250, by direct donations from public spirited citizens, in addition to what the donors will pay for services rendered. They have already secured over $1,000 and the entire amount is practically assured. This fund will be used for administration and sundry expenses, so that the entire amount paid for service may be used for that work.

The directors have also sent out to more than 2,500 residents of the district a letter, which states that each avenue with its contiguous alleys will be treated as a unit. No work will be done on any avenue unless the residents on that avenue subscribe enough money to do the work properly for a year.

A low estimate of the cost of keeping streets and alleys clean is $1,200 per mile. Therefore it will cost $600 in this district to keep each avenue and its alley clean for a year. This is not much to raise in the four blocks from 31st to 35th Sts. on any of our avenues, if the residents on that avenue really desire better conditions than those which now obtain. This estimate also includes sprinkling macadamized streets, so that subscribers to the association have no bills to pay for sprinkling.

The directors who are scattered over the entire district are now voluntarily making a canvass, each on his or her own avenue, trying to save the citizens the expense of a paid solicitor.

It is earnestly hoped the residents of the district will appreciate the labors of these public spirited men and women, and will respond promptly with their subscriptions for the work to be done.

They can also aid the directors very much by talking the matter over with their neighbors, so that the design and scope of the association may be known to every resident of the district, and much valuable time saved for the directors who are canvassing.

Talk it over with your neighbors.

The Church at Work

Sunday School

R. J. Pickett, Dept. Editor

Mr. J. A. Hessler was elected by the church on March 30th as an assistant superintendent of the Sunday School. He will have charge of the Primary Department. We wish him success and bespeak for him the loyal support of his teachers, which support every superintendent must have, for the teachers make the school.

We are pleased to see Miss Edith Neal again at work in our school. While we are continually losing efficient members, caused by the constant shifting of the population, our courage is maintained by the ever recurring return of some faithful worker who has been absent for a time.

On March 6th our Superintendent was ill and could not attend the session of the school, so a committee consisting of two of the scholars was appointed to call on him and express to him our sympathy. To appreciate the visit of this committee you should hear Mr. Whitmore's report of the boys call.

Teacher's Social

The regular social which was held Monday evening March 14th was a very enjoyable occasion. These meetings will be held every other month hereafter and will be distinctly social in their nature, well worth attending. The program consisted of readings, solos and selections by the Guild Glee Club, all of which were highly appreciated. The Onward Class was called on to assist the social committee, which they did manfully, and there was no sherbert left when the boys were through with their task. The teachers and officers who were present will not miss the next social and we need only call the attention of the absentees to the fact that Miss Wilken is the chairman of the social committee to assure them of a social worth while attending.

Organized Bible Classes

The two bible classes in our school conducted by the Men's League and the Amoret Henson Guild respectively have both had numerous ups and downs in their history. Misfortunes of one kind and another have befallen them; both have lost very efficient teachers and have been without teachers and there is the constant drain on their membership to supply helpers in the school. But now each has an excellent teacher and as the long hard winter is over we look for a large increase in numbers and a radical change in the spirit of the classes. We say frankly that we believe that it has been satisfactorily demonstrated by the experience of others that where a Bible class is the chief reason for the existence of like organizations a larger measure of success has been attained. More good is gotten from the study of God's Word, more souls are saved than by any other means. The school is willing and anxious to co-operate in strengthening these classes. Let us all seek to realize the large possibilities of these classes.

Adult Bible Class

This class is growing constantly. Deacon Ahrens proves to be a most acceptable teacher and Mrs. Branch is a most effective and persistent worker for the class. Our men and women are invited to join this class in the study of the Bible.

The Onward Class

The superintendent introduced their new teacher to the class on March 20th. Mr. Embree was greeted with an attendance of twenty-two, one of the members said after the second Sunday's lesson that he never had been in a Bible class in which the lesson was so interesting. Three members of the class have joined the church since the first of the year.

Home Department

The Home Department enters this month upon the second year of its history. The first year was one of phenomenal growth. Within one year we enrolled 308 members and after all the changes of a city of change we begin the second year with a membership of 260. To get an idea of the meaning of these figures think of a Bible class of 260 members for that is what the Home Department is. Will you help us to increase our membership to 500? Everybody can help. Just seek out those friends who can not attend Sunday school and invite them to join this department.

Christian Endeavor

Miss E. M. Pickett, Dept. Editor

The regular Friday evening meeting March 20th was an unusual one. The subject was "Little things that Christ makes great." It was a memory meeting. A verse or a song firmly fixed in the memory is a great help in time of temptation and in personal work. Mr. and Mrs. Steele and Miss Schearer have been received into active membership.

Our pastor frequently meets with us and by his words cheers and encourages us. We hope that more of our church members will follow his example.

The Missionary meeting this month was devoted to the study of three of the greatest living missionaries: Rev. Jos. Clark, of the Congo district in Africa, whom many of us have heard; Dr. Ashmore, known as "The Apostle to China"; and also Dr. Clough, whose work has been so greatly blessed that thousands have been baptized in a day and many thousands have been added to the church among the Telegus of India. Paper and pencil were distributed among us, and we were asked to write what we thought was the work of a missionary. The answers showed a very creditable knowledge of the meaning of missionary work. In the absence of Mr. Cassius Williamson, Mr. Harry Perkins gave a very brief report of where the missionary money of our society goes.

Intermediate Society

March 20th we had a very pleasant surprise. The Intermediate Superintendent of the Chicago C. E. Union, with a number from the society of the 4th Presbyterian Church visited us. Mrs. McFadden gave again her interesting talk on the Baptist Missionary Work in the Congo Free State of Africa.

Junior Society

The Junior entertained the Primary Juniors at the social on Saturday March 26. Two of our members, Mabel Lighty and Charles Howorth received prizes for bringing the largest number of members to our meeting the last two months. There were about seventy-five present to enjoy the best social ever held.

"Sunshine Band"

The Sunshine Band have now an efficient leader in Mrs. King. We feel sure they will receive the best that a faithful loving heart can give.

South Division Union

In spite of the severe storm on Thursday March 10th nearly three hundred endeavorers from the societies of the South Division Union gathered in our lecture room. All were well repaid, for the rally was a most profitable one. Genuine Christian Endeavor enthusiasm was manifested in the opening song service led by Mr. Hale.

Mr. Ben Oliel, chairman of the Division Lookout committee, read a short paper and lead the discussion on the work of this committee. Miss Baldwin of the Second Presb. Church spoke on prayer meeting committee work. Ten minute preparatory prayer service, leaderless, memory and chain meetings were discussed. Social committee work was presented by Miss Cory of the Sixth Presb. Church. The points brought out were the financing of a social, taking advantage of special days and seasons for decorations, refreshments or games, the catchy invitation, the "wall flowers" and the ever present, all pervading sociability of Christian fellowship.

The Division awards an "Increase Banner" at each rally, for the largest gain in new members since the previous rally. This was captured for the second time by the First Presb. Church Society. The rivalry of the companies into which this society was divided for this membership contest resulted in fifty new members within six months. We congratulate Raymond Mission on winning the banner for having the largest percentage of members present at the rally.

Ladies' Benevolent Society

Mrs. W. Morava, Dept. Editor

The enthusiasm so manifest early in the season continues and even increases. On the morning of March 4th the doors of the church parlors were opened for the regular business meeting of the society. Eighty-seven ladies were present on that day to help in this noble work and to share in the bountiful and delicious luncheon so generously provided by the Pure Food Co.

On March 18th notwithstanding the almost impassible condition of the streets, seventy ladies met to carry on the good work. Because of the absence of the president, Mrs. de Blois presided with the most charming grace and dignity. About sixty garments and five comforts were completed during the month. One of these garments was for a little girl at the Bap-

tist Orphanage. The sweet letter of appreciation received amply repaid those who made the dress. Two of the comforts were for the Home of the Friendless. Mrs. Geo. Tracey became a member of the society. It was a pleasure to have Mrs. Haigh with us once more.

Embroidery Tea

The Embroidery Tea, given by Mrs. H. C. McConnell on March 12th was a social and musical success. In addition to the cordial welcome to a beautiful home and to the hospitable serving of dainty refreshments, a musical programme, delightful beyond all expression, was given by Mrs. J. E. McConnell and Miss Cochrane. Mrs. McConnell has most remarkable command of a voice of ideal qualities and Miss Cochrane excels as an accompanist. The entire programme was enthusiastically received and included:

Maiden, How Sweet ..... Nevins
Wishes ..... San Souci
Mrs. McConnell
Autumn ..... Chaminade
Miss Cochrane
Song is Sweet ..... San Souci
Lullaby ..... Pease
Spring Tide ..... Becker
Mrs. McConnell
Romance in E Flat ..... Rubinstein
Miss Cochrane
Oh, Dry Thy Tears ..... del Riego
Resurrection ..... Shelley
In May Time ..... Oley Speaks
Mrs. McConnell

"Oh, Dry Thy Tears" and "Spring Time" seemed to be the most popular. Miss Cochrane's execution of "Autumn" and "Romance in E Flat" showed her sovereinty over the piano. The entertainment was the most delightful of the season and we thank Mrs. McConnell most heartily.

Women's Mission Circle

Mrs. S. B. Lingle, Dept. Editor

The study of China, which was begun at the March meeting proved of great interest. All who were on the programme brought material both interesting and instructive.

Mrs. Lumley took us on an imaginary journey to China, showing its geography and physical features. Mrs. Holmes told of the ancient civilization showing that while our European forefathers were in primitive savagery this Asiatic Empire understood the art of printing, making paper and gun powder, and were making silks for their own use as well as for the Romans.

Mrs. Googins gave an outline of the history of the dynasties from the legendary period to the present time. Mrs. Pickett told of the Opium War, which while there was so much to regret, still served the purpose of opening China to the world. Mrs. Bilton told of the house-boats and Mrs. Gillette gave a vivid picture of her own impression of this phase of Chinese life as she saw these slipper boats in the harbor of Canton.

Mrs. Atwell's description of child life in China was full of interest, and she dwelt upon the curious superstitions that surround the child from the beginning of life and the effort made to interpose between the little one and the evil spirits that are supposed to threaten it.

We are indebted to the Guild Glee Club for adding to the pleasure of the afternoon by one of their selections.

The Circle appreciates the gift of $100 to Home Missions from Mrs. D. J. Harris. This will make four of our numbers life members of the Woman's Home Mission Society.

Women's Mission Union

The meeting of the Mission Union held at the Memorial Church on March eighth was a delightful one. The delegates from our church numbered twenty-five. The reports from the Circles were encouraging and the program of the afternoon was a very interesting one. The Circle of the First Church has invited the Union to meet in this church in March 1905, which will be the annual meeting of the Union. The next meeting of the Women's Baptist Mission Union will be held on April 12th in the Centennial church, Jackson Boulevard, corner Lincoln St.

Letter from Rev. Jos. Clark

Many will remember the Rev. Joseph Clark of Africa and will be interested in extracts from a recent letter:

"We took over the station (Ikoko) on our arrival May 14th after an absence of two years. * * School work has been given to Miss Lena, and considerable progress is evident. Our class was examined on John's gospel and the papers were very satisfactory. Medical work was allotted to Mrs. Clark though she is without special training. We would be glad of a doctor

to take up this branch of mission work here. Two surgical cases since our arrival were beyond our ability and they died. * * Mrs. Clark has treated snake bites, arrow and spear wounds, poisoning, dysentery, chest and skin diseases, fever, maternity cases and sleeping sickness. * * Industrial work has been carried on as heretofore. What time Mrs. Clark can spare from the sick she gives to directing the gardening. About twenty boys attend to the gardening before and after school hours. In the last quarter of 1903 we sold $35.00 worth of garden produce. We can give you fine pineapples for one cent each and ten bananas for one cent. * * The church closed the year with fifty-three members, all of whom help in Christian work. On Sundays they usually hold twelve to fifteen open-air meetings and when out visiting or trading they teach and preach. As usual they have done well in their giving. They support eight poor people who are unable to work, and have paid $38.00 toward the expense of our Ituta Station. * * Our hearts have been cheered by the number of villagers attending our services, a number give us opportunity for conversation on spiritual matters and are applicants for church membership.

Amoret Henson Guild

Miss B. M. Harvey, Dept. Editor

It was very encouraging to see such a splendid attendance at our Guild supper in March for the severe weather of the winter months has kept many from enjoying these delightful evenings with us. We were particularly glad to see many strangers and glad also that they did not remain strangers long, for immediately after tea they were shown to any one of the classes they prefered and there, with some interesting work to do, soon forgot that an hour before they had come in feeling rather strange among so many unfamiliar faces.

The Membership committee noticed especially two young girls who came to the door and said they had heard of our meetings and had, at last, accepted an invitation to come but that they "did not know a soul." Later they were seen in the basket weaving class laughing and talking with the rest. They did not wait to be asked to become members of the Guild, but sought out the chairman of the Membership committee and said they had enjoyed the evening immensely and wanted to become members with us. It is this sort of thing that makes us feel that our work is worth while.

We had the pleasure of welcoming six new members at this meeting.

Our treasurer, Miss Wilken, reported one hundred and six dollars, above all expenses, as a result of our entertainment in February, so that the Guild feels its labor was well rewarded.

We were glad, as indeed we always are, to have Mr. and Mrs. Parker with us at this meeting, especially as it was Mrs. Parker's first visit for some months. Mrs. Simons very kindly entertained us with several selections during the evening. This change in our usual order of exercises was a very pleasing one.

The Glee Club

The Glee Club sang at the Teacher's social the second Monday in March and although the weather was most inclement and there were very few present in consequence, the people who braved the storm were a most appreciative audience and the members of the Club enjoyed singing as they always do.

The Bible Class

The Bible class was glad to show its appreciation of Deacon Parker's genial welcome on Sunday morning by sending a sweet boquet of flowers the Sunday in March he was kept at home by illness.

The class has completed its study of the Life of Peter and will begin, the first Sunday in April, a most promising course on the Life of Christ. Young women interested will be gladly welcomed.

Men's League

C. M. Clarke, Dept. Editor

Each of our meetings in March was a marked success. The presence of a large contingent of ladies contributed in no small degree to the enjoyment of the evening. The first meeting, held on March 7th, was devoted to the discussion of the Russo-Japanese question. Prof. J. W. Thompson, of the University of Chicago, the first speaker, handled the subject in a manner that made apparent, not only his familiarity with the question in general, but also his clear understanding of the cause that led up to, and the issues involved in, the great struggle now going on in the "Far East." He was followed by Mr. Naotaro Otsuka, a native of Japan, who held the attention and won the hearts of his audience by his manful vindication of his na-

tive country, accused of having "begun the fight without a declaration of war." Mrs. Wood, of our church choir rendered appropriate solos which were highly appreciated.

At the second meeting, which occurred March 21st, Mr. J. L. Whitman, warden of our county "Bastile" told us of the course pursued in the care and treatment of prisoners in the institution of which he is the head. It was exceedingly interesting, especially the part relating to executions. Mr. Whitman is an instance that gives the lie to the assertion that none of our local officials are God-fearing men. The musical programme was furnished by Mrs. J. E. McConnell of New York, who sang several fine selections.

The Bible Class

We must not forget that we have a "Bible Class of the Men's League." One of our members suggests, and not without reason that we should reverse the order, saying: "The League of the Men's Bible Class." However this may be, it is certain that this department is one of the most important if not the most important department of the League's work. The last session in March saw only seven men, beside our teacher and the pastor, in attendance. Evidently something is radically wrong. With as able a teacher as it is possible for us to obtain in charge of the class, it is either lack of interest on the part of our men or the hours at which the sessions are held that is responsible for the present state of affairs. Something must be done, and that right speedily. We are loath to believe that our fellows are really lukewarm. So we are inclined to the opinion that the hour should be changed. Let this be a subject of careful and prayerful consideration on the part of our members and let the committee take this matter up at the earliest opportunity and see what can be done for this very important phase of our work.

Young Ladies' Missionary Society

Miss E. G. Gale, Dept. Editor

The first March meeting of the society was held at the home of the Misses Marshall on March first. There were about fifteen girls present and much sewing was accomplished. The society met at the home of Miss Florence Raymond, 3304 Vernon Avenue, on March eighth, and progress was made on the work for the sale. On March 16th the girls gathered at Miss Gertrude Perry's, 3228 South Park Avenue and spent a very enjoyable afternoon; and the last meeting before the sale was held at the home of Miss Laura Hale, 3030 Calumet Avenue, on March 23rd.

Miss Gertrude Wilken very kindly opened her house to the girls for the "Novelty Sale," which was held on Wednesday afternoon, March 30th. Although the weather was unfavorable, the sale proved a success and about $45.00 were realized. Much credit is due to our president, Miss Lelia Ahrens, for the success in this undertaking. The society has given $25.00 to Home Missions and the same amount to Foreign Missions.

Boys' Club

A. R. Rhenisch, Dept. Editor

On March 5th Deacon Barron, Assistant Superintendent Sunday School, gave the boys a most interesting and instructive talk on Coal Mining. He described the workings of the mine, and told of several amusing incidents that occurred during his experience in the coal fields of central and southern Illinois.

We had with us on March 12th, Mr. Davidson and Mr. Castle of Immanuel Branch No. 2. After attending several of our meetings, Mr. Davidson has decided to organize a "Boys' Club" at No. 2. Their organization is modeled after our own. We are glad to know that our club has been the means of starting another. Mr. H. C. Rohrbach, superintendent of the Sunday school at Immanuel Branch No. 8, has visited our club and spoke very enthusiastically o fthe club. He is also planning to organize a similar work.

The Messenger service is now on a working basis. Messengers have been distributing announcements of the special Sunday services at the Illinois Central and Elevated R. R. Stations. They will soon deliver messages to the absent scholars.

At the meeting of Saturday, March 19th the boys enjoyed refreshments of lemonade and wafers.

A special delegation from the Boys' Club of Trinity M. E. Church, attended our meeting of March 26th and invited our Boys to attend a special meeting to be held at their headquarters on the following Sunday afternoon. A number of our boys' were present and reported a most interesting meeting. An invitation was given at that time asking them to attend our meeting of April 2nd. We are glad that such a friendship has sprung up between

these two clubs, and we hope that it may increase so that they will be a help to each other.

Board of Ushers

On the evening of March 12 there was held in the church parlors a dinner and conference of the ushers. There were present the Pastor, most of the ushers and the Usher Committee of the deacons. After an excellent dinner prepared by Mrs. Russell and her helpers, an informal discussion was held concerning the duties of the ushers.

It was decided that an organization of the ushers would promote the efficiency of this corps of workers. The "Board of Ushers of the First Baptist Church" was therefore organized. The following officers were elected:

M. J. Piercey, Head Usher and President
R. B. Twiss, Secretary-Treasurer
W. H. Vallette, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee

Mr. Piercey, as head usher, will have full charge of the seating of the audience at our various services. He is responsible to the Usher Committee of the Deacons, and will co-operate with them in the appointment and assignment of the ushers.

The new board will hold quarterly meetings for conference concerning the problems and possibilities of the office of usher. The Entertainment Committee will have charge of these.

As the duties of ushers do not permit them to welcome strangers, it was deemed advisable that a special Reception Committee be appointed for this work. The deacons have chosen as this committee, Deacon Parker, chairman, Deacons Lindley and McCullough and Mr. M. V. Wagner.

Raymond Mission

L. T. Austermell, Dept. Editor

Miss Etta Pacius has returned from Milwaukee. We are glad to have her with us again.

Little Clara Saker has been seriously ill with appendicitis. She is now thought to be out of danger.

We are glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Steele as regular teachers in our Sunday school Miss McKenzie has also taken a class.

Mrs. Ryder, mother of Mrs. Henry Lee, died March 5th. Mr. Swift conducted the funeral service. March 20th a son was born to Mrs. Lee.

Under the leadership of Mr. C. Wilshire, assisted by Miss Cora Maier, a Young Ladies' Drill Corps has been organized. Large attendance and hearty enjoyment of the exercises are reported.

Our neighbors at Doremus Congregational Church have been holding rousing meetings for three weeks with preaching by Mr. Chas. Inglis. Good results are reported. The Immanuel Presbyterian Church have asked our help in special meetings to begin April 4th.

The attendance at our prayer meetings as well as at the Sunday evening services shows a gratifying increase since Mr. Embree has taken charge. The interest has increased with the attendance.

The Christian Endeavor Society has suffered the loss of two most active members. Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Williamson have resigned to organize a society in the Forty-eighth Street Church, where they are now members.

The banner of the South Division C. E. Union, for largest percentage of members present at the rally held at the home church March 10th, was won by our Society—a good sign of the renewed activity of our members.

For somewhat over a year our Sunday school has been collecting "birthday offerings" and sending the money to Dr. Eubank, our former pastor, now a medical missionary in Hu Chau, China. Their gifts, increased by contribution from our older members, are to enable Dr. Eubank to care for poor patients in the small hospital he conducts. A letter from the Doctor acknowledging our last remittance was read to the School last Sunday. He wrote:

"Let me tell you a little incident in connection with your letter. I have a young man in the hospital with a troublesome ulcer on his leg. I have kept him free for a long time but had just about made up my mind to tell him he would have to leave, as funds were low. He came in to beg me to let him stay a while longer saying to leave would be to abandon all hope of getting well. I didn't have the heart to tell him he must go but put him off for a day or two. He had left only a few minutes when your letter came and I said now my boy can stay awhile longer. God does hear prayer—even out here in China. We have here in Hu Chau what I think a promising work,—the newest field in our East China Conference. It fills our hearts with joy to have you remember us in your prayers and gifts."

Church Life

Published Monthly by the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chicago, Illinois

Editor

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Editorial

We welcome the Douglas Improvement Association among the forces that are making for better conditions in our neighborhood. In our March issue we reported the purpose and organization of the association. This month we give its officers and directors and plan of work. We certainly need clean streets and alleys, and the association offers an excellent cooperative plan for securing this desirable end. The success of the association is assured by the representative and public-spirited men and women who are its officers and directors, and by the large and increasing support which is being given to it by the residents of the district.

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But as much as we need clean streets and alleys, our neighborhood has a far greater need. What will it profit to whiten up the streets and alleys without, if some buildings in the district are left foul and black with immorality and lawlessness within? Our Christian and morally earnest people must know that the forces of evil are nightily regnant hereabouts. One would have to be blind and deaf not to know of the gambling rooms and haunts of immorality in the neighborhood. Many other questions of law and order are pressing for answer: do the saloons keep the new law for closing? are the pugilistic contests at the America Hall within the limits of the law? is the opening of the 31st Street Theater warranted by a full compliance with the new theater regulations? etc., etc. The time has come when the forces of righteousness should become militant. The doers of evil count upon the truth of the old adage that what is everybody's business is nobody's. They care not how much we preach, so long as we do not act. We need some organization to lead in the moral cleansing of our neighborhood. Can not our Men's League take up this matter?

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The Pastor's Message

The organization of the ushers and the appointment of a Reception Committee may be looked upon as the most noteworthy occurrences of the past month in the life of our church. The appointment of Deacon R. S. Parker as chairman of the Reception Committee, by unanimous vote of his fellow-deacons, was a merited tribute of respect to one whom we all delight to honor. Deacons McCullough and Lindley, and Mr. Wagner will be associated with Deacon Parker in this important service of greeting the members and welcoming visitors and strangers at all of our regular church services. The work of the ushers is being thoroughly organized by Mr. Piercey. All of the old ushers have been retained, some additional ones have been appointed, and the duties of this important body of church officers are being systematized. Arrangements have been made for quarterly meetinge of the new board, at which the functions and opportunities of the usher's office will be discussed.

It is difficult to speak of the work of any one organization in the church as particularly successful without seeming to be partial, because every one of our church societies is now in a most flourishing condition. I cannot refrain, however, from calling attention to the fact that the Christian Endeavorer young people are proving their strength in splendid fashion. Wherever you go in the church you find those noble young workers performing an

efficient and helpful service in a modest and quiet way. I find them engaged as officers and teachers in the Sunday School, both at the home church and Raymond Mission, as leaders in the Boys' Club, as faithful helpers in the League and Guild, as personal workers, earnest and eager for the progress of Christ's holy cause. Not only at their own prayer meetings, which are well attended and spiritually uplifting, but at our Wednesday night meetings as well, the presence of these young people is a source of encouragement and blessing. Whenever I think of this strong band of young men and young women, so loyal to our church and our Master, I look to the future with hope and great joy.

I have spoken of personal work. This is one of the most encouraging features of our church life. Have you noticed how quietly and how steadily these young converts have been coming, one by one, two by two, without fuss or bluster or excitement? They have come because parents have been praying for their children, because Sunday School teachers have been visiting their pupils and talking with them in their homes, because young people have been urging their friends to follow Jesus Christ. The strength of our church and its progress depend much more than some of us may think upon the valiant personal service of these very faithful members.

Amid all our many activities let us never forget that personal work in the name of the Master is the secret and source of the church's greatest power. I wish from my heart of hearts that every one who reads these words might say: "In the name of Jesus Christ I pledge myself to some form of personal service; in His name I will seek to persuade at least one person to enter upon the Christian life within the next month." Why should we not be just as direct and definite and practical in religious affairs as we are in business matters?

Your Pastor,
Austen K. de Blois.

The Journal of the Church

H. F. Perkins, Church Clerk

March 1—Tuesday. Young Ladies' Missionary Society met at 3426 Vernon Ave.

March 2—Wednesday. Monthly prayer meeting.

March 4—Friday. Meeting of the Ladies Benevolent Society. Christian Endeavor prayer meeting, led by Miss Chilson; topic: "How Christ Stills the Storms of Life." Psalms 107:23-31.

March 5—Saturday. Boy's Club. Military drill conducted by Col. Emery and an interesting talk on mining by Mr. Barron.

March 6—Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor, morning: "The Kingship of Christ," evening: "The American Republic: Christ's Message."

March 7—Monday. Ladies' Night of the Mens' League. The Russo-Japanese question discussed by Prof. J. Westfall Thompson of the University of Chicago and Mr. Naotaro Otsuka. Large attendance.

March 8—Tuesday. Young Ladies' Missionary Meeting met at 3304 Vernon Ave.

March 9—Wednesday. Monthly missionary prayer meeting. Scripture: Math. 10: 5-23.

March 10—Thursday. Rally of the South Division Chicago Christian Endeavor Union.

March 11—Friday. Monthly meeting of the Women's Mission Circle; topic: "China—a self-centered Empire." Christian Endeavor prayer meeting led by Messrs. Rhenisch and A. W. Allen. Topic: "Appetites that unmake men." Dan. 5:1-5, 25-28.

March 12—Saturday. Embroidery Tea at the home of Mrs. McConnell, 3619 Grand boulevard. Meeting of the Boys' Club.

March 13—Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor, morning "The Freedom of the Conscience;" evening: "The American Home: Christ's Warning."

March 14—Monday. Sunday School Teachers' social.

March 15—Tuesday. Young Ladies' Missionary Society met at 3228 South Park Ave.

March 16—Wednesday. Church prayer and social service.

March 18—Friday. Meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Christian Endeavor monthly missionary meeting.

March 19—Saturday. Boys' Club.

March 20—Sunday. The Pastor preached in the morning on "The Fellowship of the Spirit," and in the evening on "The American Man: Christ's Challenge." An-

nual collection for Foreign Missions in the morning.

March 21—Monday. Mr. John L. Whitman, warden of the Cook County Jail, addressed the members of the Mens' League and their lady friends. Lecture room crowded.

March 22—Tuesday. Young Ladies' Missionary Social met at 3030 Calumet Ave.

March 23—Wednesday. Church prayer and social service.

March 25—Friday. Christian Endeavor prayer meeting led by Miss Blanche E. Pickett. Topic: "Little things that Christ makes great." 1 Cor. 1:25-29.

March 26—Saturday. Meeting of the Boys' Club.

March 27—Sunday. Sermons by the Pastor, morning: "The Democracy of the Church;" evening: "The American Mother: Christ's Comfort and Condemnation."

March 28—Monday. Monthly meeting of the Amoret Henson Guild. Classes in sewing, basket feaving and singing and readings by Mrs. Della Howard Simons.

March 30—Wednesday. "Novelty Sale" of the Young Ladies' Missionary Society at the home of Miss Gertrude Wilken, 3201 Vernon Ave. Monthly covenant prayer meeting.

Changes in Membership

Additions

By Baptism:

C. W. Sheppard, 2970 South Park Ave.
Wm. J. Hodgson, 79 E. 29th St.
Chas. H. Marx, 3017 South Park Ave.
Mrs. Chas. S. Ward, 2949 Groveland Ave.
Henry B. Chase, 2826 Calumet Ave.
Chas. J. Webber, 2808 South Park Ave.
Harold M. Lumley, 407 33rd St.
Lester R. Lumley, 407 33rd St.

By Letter:

Miss Vanja Rundquist, 5700 Drexel Ave.
Mrs. Henrietta Emery, 4320 Forestville Ave.
Mrs. Ade C. Hillman, 4843 Madison Ave.
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hass, 3217 Rhodes Ave.
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Thomas, 2938 Indiana Ave.
Mrs. W. L. Sherrill, Hotel Holland, 53rd and Lake Ave.
Miss Myrtle Sherrill, Hotel Holland.

By Experience:

Chas. S. Ward, 2949 Groveland Ave.

Diminutions

By Letter:

Miss Edna Van Ness

Personal and Other Notes

We congratulate Mrs. William Pickett upon the celebration of her eightieth birthday on March 26th.

Rev. John M. Linden and Miss Florence Love Fuller were married at the home of the bride's parents in Michigan City, Ind., on March 15 by Rev. F. C. W. Parker. Eight Chicago friends were present, Mrs. Pienkowsky, Mrs. Lingle, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Temple Williams, Harry F. Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Parker. Mr. Linden has decided to remain as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Michigan City. As student pastor of this church Mr. Linden brought new life to a dead church and the present outlook is for a large and flourishing church.

We rejoice that Miss Laura Thompson has quite fully recovered from her seven weeks' of illness.

We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. R. R. Donnelley in the loss of her aged mother, Mrs. Shenstone, at Brantford, Canada, where Mrs. Donnelley has been since November.

Mrs. Branch who has resided on Hinsdale for some time has again taken up her residence in the city. We are glad to have this loyal and faithful member back with us in the active work.

Mrs. J. P. Barnes has our most loving sympathy in the death of her husband after an illness, in which he endured great suffering.

Mrs. W. H. Haigh has met with a painful accident. As she was going down stairs to admit the servant, she fell down the flight of stairs and broke her shoulder blade and sprained her ankle. She is now resting easily and slowly recovering.

We sympathize with Miss Helen Webster in the severe illness of her mother.

Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Moors and her daughters and sons in the very sudden death of husband and father. They wish to express their deepest appreciation for the loving sympathy and kindness shown them in their bereavement.

Miss Beatrice Little has been suffering from a severe attack of tonsilitus but we are glad that she is now fully recovered.

We regret to learn of the ill health of Mrs. F. O. Marsh, who spends the winters at Leland University in New Orleans.